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MONTANA LABOR MARKET

Monthly Review of EMPLOYMENT OUTLOOK, LABOR SUPPLY, LABOR DEMAND, CURRENT EMPLOYMENT

MONTANA STATE EMPLOYMENT SERVICE Division of Unemployment Compensation Commission of Montana

Howard N. Hebert, Commissioner

Edgar H. Reeder, Chairman UCC Building — P. O. Box 1728 — Helena, Montana

George A. Morrison, Commissioner

FL. 221.



AUGUST, 1961

Montana Wage Earners Total 176,300 In July

The number of workers on Montana's payrolls moved upward from June to July with a little less than the usual seasonal strength. At mid July, 176,300 wage earners were receiving pay checks from the state's non-farm employers according to estimates compiled by the Commission in cooperation with the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. This figure represents a gain of 1,000 workers over June payrolls, with the final employment figure for that month set at 175,300. Average June to July employment expansion for the past ten years figures 1,600 workers. Continued seasonal employment expansion was evident in most of the major industry groups but with less force than in June when 8,500 workers were added to payrolls. Employment this July is even with that of a year ago and is the third highest July employment of record. The record was set in July, 1959, when 177,500 were employed. The second highest July employment figure was in 1956 with 17,7400 wage earners.

Exceeds February Low by 16,500

Monthly employment totals in Montana move up and down in response to a variety of seasonal and climatic forces. Non-farm employment is usually over 20,000 higher in July than in February. Employment expansion between these two points this year is only 16,500. Last year the employment growth for the comparable period was 23,800 workers. The average for the past ten years is 20,400. The seasonal expansion shows less this year chiefly because of an open winter which kept many construction and other outdoor workers employed

Paradox of High Employment and Joblessness Dominated Montana's July Labor Market Scene

Montana's reserve labor supply was 11,725 in July, for a near record summer level. Jobseekers continued to outnumber jobs although the margin of difference was reduced by nearly 4,000 work applicants from the June count at the 22 local offices of the Montana State Employment Service. It was the second highest July unemployment figure of record, and totaled 5,300 more than the average July jobseeker total of the past ten years. The near record July employment level indicates that Montana is pulling out of the slump carried over from the economic downturn of 1957-58. Employment gains have been steady but not spectacular. Despite the presence of more favorable labor market trends, the fact still remains that the labor force is growing at a rate faster than the ability of the economy to generate industrial expansion and more jobs. The situation is not peculiar to Montana alone, but is national in scope and significance.

throughout a period when they normally would have been laid off.

Most Industries Record Gains

Over-the-month employment advances occurred in six of the state's eight basic industry groups. A seasonal upsurge in contract construction lifted employment levels in this industry to 16,600 up 1,600 from last month. Main street trade and service establishments each provided 400 more jobs in July largely to meet demands of increased tourist trade. Employment in manufacturing industries was up a moderate 300, with this gain separated into a 200 rise in the durable goods group and 100 in non-durable segments of the industry. One hundred workers were added to both transportation and utility firm payrolls and to finance, insurance, and real estate establishments. All mining employment totaled 7,100 with no gain from June. Seasonal hiring of workers in national parks, forest service, and other federal facilities resulted in a gain of 600 in federal jobs. Employment in local and state government was down 2,500 with the

release of teachers and other school personnel during the summer months.

Year Ago Comparisons Different

Five major industries had fewer employees on payrolls this July than last, but gains in three others canceled out these losses to keep employment this year parallel with that of a year ago. The state's mining payrolls were short 1,000 workers from last July. Service industry payrolls were minus another thousand workers. Railroad employment was down 600, with trade and manufacturing industries down 400 each from the same period. Employment gains of 2,600 in contract construction, 700 in government, and 100 in finance, insurance, and real estate units totaled 3,400 to cancel the loss in these other industry segments

Employment declines in mining and railroads and to a lesser extent in the lumber industry over the past few years will be difficult to recapture. Production levels in metal mining are equal to or higher than past years with a substantial reduction in the work force.

LABOR TURNOVER RATES IN MANUFACTURING AND MINING INDUSTRIES (per 100 employees)

		AC	CESSIC	ON RA	TE		SEPARATION RATE									
INDUSTRY		Total New Hire			Total			Quit			Layoff					
	1) Jun 1961	2) May 1961	June 1960	June 1961	May 1961	June 1960	June 1961	May 1961	June 1960	June 1961	May 1961	June 1960	June 1961	May 1961	June 1960	
3) All Manufacturing Durable Goods Primary Metal	7.6	5.4 7.0 1.6 2.3	7.2 7.6 4.6 6.6	5.3 6.5 2.3 2.9	4.3 5.6 1.0 2.0	5.1 5.1 2.0 5.0	3.1 3.1 2.3 3.3	2.7 3.2 3.5 1.8	4.1 4.0 2.1 4.3	1.6 1.6 .6 1.5	1.5 1.5 .9 1.4	1.8 1.8 1.3 1.8	.6 .6 .4 .8	.4 .5 .2	1.9 1.7 .4 2.3	
All Mining Metal Mining	9.2 6.6	7.3	7.0 7.1	3.1 1.0	2.3 .5	2.2 1.4	4.7 3.3	5.6 3.8	5.7 6.2	1.9	2,4 1.8	2.4 2.8	1.3	1.6	.5	

Preliminary rates based on all data available at publication time.
 Figures previously revised on more complete returns.
 Excludes sugar and canning industries.
 Total separations include discharges and miscellaneous separations.

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Along the Hiring Line-Field Summary Aug. 1

ANACONDA, Deer Lodge, Philipsburg— (411 jobseekers, 76 new, 259 men, 152 women). Hiring in farm and industry down from a year ago. Strike of textile clerks in progress since June 29 has adversely affeeted the whole economy. Smelter employment rose by 50 men in past month, but some have already been furloughed. No new construction, and reduced farm activity adds

to labor market lag.

BILLINGS, Columbus, Hardin, Hysham, Laurel, Red Lodge, Roundup—(2,477 job-seckers, 827 new, 1,731 men, 746 women). Substantial drop in jobsceker files as sea-sonal job opportunities develop in industry and farm. Construction employment continues at fairly good levels, but with less volume than a year ago. Some building craftsmen still remain unemployed. About 250 on construction payrolls at Yellowtail Dam with tunnel and road work the chief activities. Plumbers' strike ended, but one by glaziers still current. Main street sales down 14 percent from last year chiefly be-cause of drought conditions in trade area. Employment in transportation groups good with exception of railroads. Farm front presents a two-sided picture-grain crops poor but excellent sugar beet yields anticipated. Sweet corn harvest to start mid-August, using Indian labor.

BOZEMAN, Ennis, Three Forks, Trident –(472 jobseekers, 243 new, 310 men, 162 women). Healthy mid-summer economy marred somewhat by layoff of 60 cement plant workers due to reduced product demand. Employment on commercial, educational, home building, and highway projects at good levels. Local labor supply adequate to meet all current demands. Farm hiring trends good with demands chiefly for hay hands, combine operators, truck drivers, and

BUTTE, Virginia City, Whitchall—(1,403 jobseckers, 263 new, 811 men, 592 women). Metal mining picture continues to show slow improvement with demand only for qualified and experienced men. Closure of long-established department store on August I idled 80 employees; volume at other retail establishments not strong enough to absorb these workers. One unit of major gas and oil company office transferred to another state. Building and road construction projects practically nil. Short crews employed on 3 highway overpasses near city.

CUT BANK-(376 jobseekers, 123 new, 258 men, 118 women). Active job applicant file up due to transient workers seeking employment and reduced construction activity. Work on pipeline to Canadian border is only new construction in area. Hail damage to an estimated 50,000 acres of crop land held agriculture hiring to minimum.

152.5

159.8

160.2

163.4

163.1

166.8

1960...... 152.7

—.... 160.9

LABOR MARKET INDICATORS

July	June	July	July Avg.
1961	1961	1960	1952-61
76,300	175,300	176,300	171,100
3,982	5,285	5,286	3,849
11,725	15,619	8,038	6,392
Aug. 4 1961	July 7 1961	Aug. 5 1960	Avg. 1st Aug. Wk. 1957-61
619	736	623	537
3,374	4,091	2,892	3,120
3,993	4,827	3,515	3,657
	1961 76,300 3,982 11,725 Aug. 4 1961 619 3,374	1961 1961 76,300 175,300 3,982 5,285 11,725 15,619 Aug. 4 July 7 1961 1961 619 736 3,374 4,091	1961 1961 1960 76,300 175,300 176,300 3,982 5,285 5,286 11,725 15,619 8,038 Aug. 4 July 7 Aug. 5 1961 1961 1960 619 736 623 3,374 4,091 2,892

DILLON-(116 jobseckers, 212 new, 83 women). Farm picture remains critical due to prolonged hot, dry weather. Irrigation water short, and some mountain springs drying up. Hay crop yields reduced considerably and range feeds short. Only fair crop of winter wheat expected. Building and road projects on schedule with sufficient labor to meet demands. New projects in offing include several service stations, river bridge, and highway improvement project.

GLASGOW, Fort Peck, Malta, Opheim— (504 jobseekers, 109 new, 263 men, 241 women). Surplus of construction workers in area due to slow start of some air base projects. About 100 workers expected to be employed on housing units. Main street business down from year ago, with less turnover noted in employment as workers stay on existing jobs. Drought conditions cut grain yields to 10 bushels an acre and reduced demand for men and machines.

GLENDIVE, Circle, Wibaux-(110 jobseekers, 81 new, 69 men, 41 women). Nearly half of July hiring comprised workers on hail damaged buildings; an estimated \$1,000,000 in insurance payments made. Work in oil fields and construction still slow. One highway project active with little hiring. Some improvements noted in trade channels and should hold steady through

GREAT FALLS, Choteau, Fort Benton, Stanford—(1,776 jobseekers, 560 new, 1,151 men, 625 women). Labor market patterns nearly the same as last year. Majority of July job orders came from trade establishments. Upswing noted in service industries with employers more selective in hiring only qualified workers. Construction employment at peak with full crews on most projects. Demand for engineers, stenographers, and well-qualified food service workers still per-

HAMILTON, Stevensville-(268 jobseckers, 64 new, 155 men, 113 women). Forest fires brought influx of workers to area and provided short-time work for most ablebodied men. Logging activity was on an on-again-off-again basis with crews diverted to fire control. Little change in most labor market patterns from last month with exception of some employment expansion in service industries. Raspberry, strawberry harvests and sugar beet weeding were main agriculture activities.

HAVRE, Chinook, Harlem—(146 jobscekers, 61 new, 73 men, 73 women). Dismal employment outlook of past few months remains unchanged. Weakening labor demand prevalent in most industries including construction, trade, railroads, and agricul-ture. No new building or highway projects of any volume set for this season.

HELENA, Boulder, Garrison, Townsend, White Sulphur Springs—(507 jobseekers, 204 new, 333 men, 174 women). Construction activity slowed considerably, but influx of transient workers attracted by V. A. hospital and missile site projects continues. Preliminary work begun on V. A. hospital, but no extensive hiring planned until September 1; peak employment expected to be about 150. Local labor supply adequate to meet current demands.

KALISPELL, Columbia Falls, Eureka, Libby, Whitefish—(1,021 jobseekers, 270 new, 749 men, 272 women). Job expansion in lumbering and logging and cherry packing operations pushed employment to peak levels. Cherry warehouses employed 200 workers. Local supply of timber fallers and sawmill workers exhausted during the month. Five highway construction projects active in area, and additions to two retail establishments begun. Trade and service hiring up with increased tourist traffic. Farm hiring at good levels mostly for hay hands. Idle jobseekers mostly in unskilled

LEWISTOWN, Harlowton, Ryegate, Winnet—(372 jobscekers, 104 new, 264 men, 108 women). Industry hiring up appreciably from last year, but big drop evident in farm hiring. Water supply and range feeds extremely short forcing many ranchers to sell their stock. Farm employers exchanging help thereby eliminating many job or-

LIVINGSTON, Big Timber—(146 job-seekers, 83 new, 74 men, 72 women). Labor market activity has healthy tones with construction, agriculture, and service industry at the forefront. Most construction activity centered in area highway projects. Up-

168.0

174.8

171.5

165.2

166.6

NINE YEARS OF MONTANA INDUSTRIAL EMPLOYMENT TOTALS, BY MONTHS (in Thousands)* Jan. Feb. March May April June July Aug. Sept. Oct. Nov. Dec. Aver. 1953..... 147.1 145.9 147.9 155.2 161.0 162.2 164.1 163.2 162.2 159.9 157.9 156.5 148.8 147.6 149.4 153.4 158.0 164.1 167.8 172.9 157.1 171.7 166.6 156.1 160.3 158.0 157.2 170.6 177.4 174.2 1955..... 150.6 149.0 149.6 155.6 160.7 169.2 164.7 170.4 163.2 168.3 162.7 162.1 154.4 155.0 1956...... 156.6 156.3 156.8 163.0 177.4 172.0 169.3 179.8 177.2 174.6 166.7 168.6 1957...... 156.8 170.8 170.0 161.3 166.0 174.2 167.4 159.9 164.8 1958...... 153.1 150.3 150.5 156.4 162.4 167.1 170.2 172.2 162.4 165.1 168.8 165.8 162.4 1959..... 155.3 155.9 156.1 167.5 167.9 174.0 175.2 177.5 176.3 179.2 176.3 153.2 162.2 169.9 159.4 165.6 161.5

176,3*

^{175.3} * Estimates revised on the basis of more complete and accurate figures for industry segments not covered under the Unemployment Insurance Program. **Preliminary Estimate.

Along the Hiring Line—Field Summary Aug. 1

swing evident in logging and railroad operations. Despite strong lumber market, hiring at sawmills limited due to log shortages. Trade industries exhibited good trends with increased tourism. No new hiring by park scrvice as labor turnover reduced. Farm demands chiefly for hay field workers and experienced irrigators.

MILES CITY, Baker, Ekalaka, Broadus, Jordan, Terry—(139 jobseckers, 100 new, 104 men, 35 women). Work on highway construction at good pace, but with few new hircs. Work on new bank building slowed by shortage of bricklayers forcing layoffs of hod carriers. Construction of new county rest home begun. Weather continues hot and dry affecting farm economy.

MISSOULA, Drummond, Arlee, Superior—(742 jobseekers, 303 new, 430 men, 312 women). Sharp drop in job placements from a year ago due chiefly to reduced demand in forestry and fishery industries. Hiring in clerical and sales fields triple last year, but other industry segments unchanged. Main street business at normal seasonal levels with some shortages of clerical and service workers developing from time to time. Good labor demand on the farm front

POLSON—(124 jobseekers, 62 new, 82 men, 42 women). Sweet cherry harvest provided employment for 600 workers—450 as pickers and 150 in warehouse operations. Surplus labor which developed was referred to area forest fires. All area lumber mills operating at capacity with minimum labor turnover. Trade and service units active in response to tourist traffic.

SHELBY—(147 jobseekers, 108 new, 93 men, 54 women). Trade, railroads, and service industries provided bulk of July job orders. All construction considerably lower than last year. No new home building started so far this year. Construction of Cut Bank-Canada pipeline will use some area workers in early August. Farm labor demand reduced one-fourth because of hail damaged crops.

damaged crops.

SIDNEY—(129 jobseekers, 51 new, 94 men, 35 women). Industry employment continues to lag with reduced construction activity and down trends in trade and service volume. Some small building remodeling projects underway and new high school nearly finished. Several commercial building projects now only in planning stages. Dry land crops produced pood yields, but sugar beet estimates appear excellent.

THOMPSON FALLS, Hot Springs—(124 jobseekers, 30 new, 92 men, 32 women). Most major industries operating at peak employment levels with som eexceptions. Closure of galena mine at Noxon idled six men. Installation of machinery for concentrating silver and copper ores nearly completed at another mining site. Construction work on commercial, educational, and federal buildings in area at good pace. Second shift of 12 men added to Trout Creek sawmill.

WOLF POINT, Plentywood, Scobey—(215 jobseekers, 48 new, 157 men, 58 women). Employment expansion on building projects noted during the month with most skilled workers on jobs. Oil field employment up as two rigs started drilling operations; increased exploration and drilling forecast next 60 days. Poor grain crops in area reduced demand for men and machines.

ESTIMATED EMPLOYMENT IN NON-AGRICULTURAL INDUSTRIES IN MONTANA (1)

(Compiled in co-operation with United States Bureau of Labor Statistics)

	EN	PLOYME	NT	Net Change			
INDUSTRY	July 1961 (2)	June 1961 (3)	July 1960	June '61 to July '61	to		
NON-AGRICULTURAL INDUSTRIES	176,300	175,300	176,300	1,000	00		
Manufacturing	20,600	20,300	21,000	300	— 400		
Durable goods	13,200	13,000	13,400	200	_ 200		
Lumber and timber products Primary metals Other (4)	7,900 3,500 1,800	3,400	4,000	100	- 200 - 500 100		
Nondurable goods	7,400	7,300	7,600	100	_ 200		
Food and kindred products Printing and publishing Petroleum refining Other (5)	4,300 1,600 900 600	4,200 1,600 900 600	4,200 1,600 1,000 800	100 00 00 00	- 100		
Mining Metal mining Coal, quarrying and nonmetallic Petroleum-natural gas production	7,100 4,100 800 2,200	7,100 4,100 800 2,200	8,100 5,100 700 2,300	00			
Contract Construction Contractors, building construction Contractors, other than building Contractors, special trade	16,600 5,500 5,900 5,200	15,000 5,100 4,900 5,000	5,600 3,800	400 1,000	2,600 — 100 2,100 600		
Transportation and utilities	19,200 8,800 4,300 6,100	19,100 8,700 4,200 6,200	19,800 9,600 4,100 6,100	100 100 100 — 100			
Trade	42,200 8,700 33,500 6,000 5,300 8,900 6,500 6,800	41,800 8,500 33,300 6,100 5,100 8,700 6,500 6,900	42,600 8,800 33,800 6,300 5,000 8,900 6,900 6,700	400 200 200 — 100 200 200 00 — 100	$-\frac{100}{300}$		
Finance, insurance and real estate	6,900	6,800	6,800	100	100		
Services and miscellaneous	24,000 3,700 2,300 18,000	23,600 3,500 2,300 17,800	25,000 4,100 2,200 18,700	400 200 00 200	100		
Government	39,700 12,100 27,600	41,600 11,500 30,100	39,000 11,100 27,900	- 1,900 600 - 2,500	700 1,000 — 300		
Great Falls Area (Cascade County) Manufacturing Contract construction Transportation and utilities Trade, wholesale and retail Services and miscellaneous (7) Government	24,600 3,200 4,900 2,000 6,100 4,900 3,500	23,800 3,100 4,200 2,000 6,100 4,900 3,500	21,200 3,000 2,400 2,100 5,700 4,700 3,300	800 100 700 00 00 00 00	3,400 200 2,500 100 400 200 200		

Statewide emptoyment estimates revised on the basis of more complete reports. Industry detail for the period January, 1959 to date, will be supplied in a future supplement to this publication.

- (1) Estimates include all full and part-time wage and salary workers who worked or received pay during the pay period ending nearest the 15th of the month. Proprietors, firm members, personnel of the armed forces, domestic servants, and self-employed persons are excluded.
- (2) Preliminary estimates based on return from samples of 895 selected Montana establishments.
- (3) Figures previously released have been revised on return from 1,346 such establishments.(4) Includes fabricated metal products, machinery except electrical, furniture, stone and clay products.
- (5) Includes apparet, chemicals, and miscellaneous manufacturing products.
- (6) Includes commercial trade schools, auto repair services and garages, miscellaneous repair services and hand trades, motion pictures, amusements and recreation, medical and health, law offices and professional services, non-profit membership organizations and businesses not otherwise classified.
- (7) Same as (6) above, also includes finance, real estate and mining.

COMPARISON OF BASIC LABOR MARKET ACTIVITIES IN JULY 1961 AND JULY, 1960

Employment	Nev	w Job	Applic	ants	Jo	bseeke	rs in 1	File				Job Pla	cemen	t			UIC	laims*
Service	July	1961	July	1960	July	1961	July	1960		July	1961		1	July	1960		Wk	. 8-4
Office	Tot.	Vet.	Tot.	Vet.	Tot.	Vet.	Tot.	Vet.	Ind.	Ag.	Tot.	Vet.	Ind.	Ag.	Tot.	Vet.		1960
Anaconda Billings Bozeman Butte Cut Bank Dillon Glasgow Glendive Great Falls Hamilton Havre Helena Kalispell Lewistown Livingston Miles City Missoula Polson Shelby Sidney Thomp. Falls Wolf Point	827 243 263 123 212 109 81 560 64 61 204 270 108 83 160 303	3 186 66 48 31 107 13 12 94 40 30 30 19 18 60 2 27 7 3 5	211 669 326 492 63 206 173 145 750 68 89 139 443 52 97 141 339 497 141 44 104	17 124 109 136 16 97 26 24 16 10 21 85 12 13 29 105 71 40 7	411 2,477 472 1,403 376 116 504 1,776 268 146 507 1,021 372 146 139 742 124 147 129 124 124 129	97 271 89 24 72 21 392 35 41 136 219 79 19 27 142 27 26 31 31 32 4	323 1,145 103 90 300 185	36 204 55 225 19 23 46 38 217 19 23 61 214 21 27 14 161 34 46 15 17 25	344 5577 2011 1888 644 833 78 1177 3800 1666 866 1488 3688 1699 1388 755 3233 195 911 27 41	24 793 199 192 70 340 33 340 629 196 331 104 29 97 103 459 237 819 158 1,442	58 1,350 400 200 134	177 298 93 377 40 233 35 50 204 46 114 83 62 101 1111 24	655 465 179 336 78 104 168 101 563 94 120 448 619 116 172 82 1 568 150 173 38	57 802 255 65 86 373 121 802 497 123 227 75 47 198 102 218 611 245 1,403 14 81	122 1,267 434 401 164 477 289 903 1,060 217 347 523 666 314 274 574 786 761	9 217 129 119 43 210 95 35	205 809 122 580 533 19 187 43 448 47 125 230 289 83 70 82 298 65 67 67 67 55 55	126 714 28 558 81 24 84 7 418 67 95 155 374 47 67 49 358 118 34 10
TOTALS	3,982	830	5,286	1,144	11,725	2,217	8,038	1,540	3,586	6,466	10,052	2,050	4,736	6,894	11,630	2,759	3,993	3,515

^{*}Includes 106 claims of the Fed. UC Program 87 same a year ago. 1,444 claims under the Fed. TEC program not included.

AVERAGE HOURS AND EARNINGS IN SELECTED MONTANA INDUSTRIES

(Produced in co-operation with United States Bureau of Labor Statistics) (Hours and earnings data exclude administrative and salaried personnel)

	Average	Weekly 1	Earnings	Averag	ge Weekly	Hours	Average Hourly Earnings			
INDUSTRY	July (1) 1961	June (2) 1961	July 1960	July (1) 1961	June (2) 1961	July 1960	July (1) 1961	June (2) 1961	July 1960	
All Manufacturing	\$100.30	 \$ 99.90	\$ 95.34	39.8	39.8	38.6	2.52	2.51	2.47	
Durable goods	99.04 105.04	100.10 102.80	92.69 97.36	39.3 40.4	40.2 40.0	38.3 39.9	2.52 2.60	2.49 2.57	2.42 2.44	
Nondurable goodsFood and kindred products	102.00 87.33	98.64 84.67	101.49 86.11	40.8 42.6	39.3 41.1	39.8 41.8	2.50 2.05	2.51	2.55 2.06	
All Mining	106.59	108.54	103.86	38.9	40.2	40.1	2.74	2.70	2.59	
Metal mining	107.36	107.71	102.96	38.9	39.6	39.0	2.76	2.72	2,64	
Transportation and Utilities (except Rys.)	97.06	98.76	96.92)		
Transportation (except railroads)	100.26 95.04	 104.45 95.04	108.05 89.08	39.6	40.1	38.9	2.40	2.37	2.29	

⁽¹⁾ Preliminary estimates. (2) Figures previously released have been revised on more complete returns.

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